

OFFICIAL REPORTS OF SOCIETIES

IN CHARGE OF
MARY E. THORNTON



SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES

REPORT PREPARED BY DR. ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE

In September, 1901, when so many nurses were gathering at Buffalo, the Spanish-American War Nurses also assembled there for their second annual meeting. We were so fortunate as to have many members from a distance with us, two having lately returned from the Philippines, and others coming from Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, and Tennessee, while a large delegation came in a body from Boston. Of course, New York and the near-by States were well represented, there being about fifty names enrolled on the register.

The meeting was opened on the afternoon of Monday, September 16, in one of the beautiful halls of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union. The first business on the programme was the address of the president, Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee, who was in the chair throughout the meeting. Her remarks were as follows:

"To the Spanish-American War Nurses in Buffalo assembled a most cordial greeting is extended. For the second time in our history we now have the pleasure of taking the hands and looking into the faces of our comrades in camp and field, in the army hospitals of home and of distant islands. Some have worked side by side on the battle-field of disease and death, while others meet now for the first time to exchange tales of their adventurous work.

"To our inexpressible grief, we assemble to-day in the shadow of an overwhelming calamity. He who was the Commander-in-Chief of the Army when we had the honor of serving in it has passed away—as truly a martyr for his country as was any soldier who fell upon the field of battle. The loss to the world is too great to be put into words, but may we not at least send some expression of our deep sympathy to the lonely wife, so suddenly bereft of all that was dearest and most precious to her?

"It seems befitting that at this—the second—meeting of the Spanish-American War Nurses we should glance at both the past and the future of the organization. Our first meeting, held in New York a

year ago, was distinctively a preliminary, organizing one. The original committee, having accepted five hundred members, called these members together to plan for and to form a society which should perpetuate our army work and form between us a bond for mutual pleasure and benefit. A constitution was then adopted, making eligible to active membership only graduate nurses and physicians who had held official appointments in the United States Army for at least one month in 1898. Non-graduate army-nurses were provided for as associates, and honorary members were designated as persons who had 'rendered distinguished aid to the Army Nurse Corps during the Spanish-American War.' No associate or honorary members were elected at the first meeting. The constitution further provided for peripatetic meetings, for officers (viz., a president, ten vice-presidents, a recording secretary, and a treasurer, who should also act as corresponding secretary), and for a benefit fund.

"No account of our first meeting is complete without reference to its delightful evening reception, luncheon, and other social features.

"During the past year your Executive Committee has transacted such business as was necessary. Most of our work has, of course, been carried on by Mrs. Lounsbery, treasurer and corresponding secretary, in her usual whole-hearted way. We are indebted to Miss Walton, vice-president, for her work in examining all the society's bills before payment was made and for service on the Admission Committee.

"As you know, our present meeting is not exactly what was planned a year ago. In view of the gathering of an International Congress of trained nurses in this city during the present week, and of the interest attached to the Pan-American Exposition, now being held here, many requests were received from members that we should come here at this time instead of going to Washington. The question was submitted to the Executive Committee, and the result was a unanimous vote in favor of Buffalo. It is our hope that this change of plan will be proved wise by a large attendance, both this year here and next year in Washington.

"Owing to the other attractions just mentioned, our present meeting is necessarily made as brief and business-like as possible. Our most important work is the adoption of by-laws, a draft of which is presented by your Executive Committee in accordance with instructions at the last meeting.

"One of these by-laws provides for the formation of branches, to be called 'camps,' which will permit the gathering of congenial members during the year and of their being in communication with each other at all times. These camps will not only be a source of pleasure and profit to the members forming them, but they will also enable the parent society to keep track of those in whom it is interested, and will aid it in dis-



ORDER OF SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR NURSES
International Congress of Nurses, Buffalo, September 18-21, 1901

pensing the benefit fund. It is sincerely hoped that each member will join one of these camps.

"Another matter to be decided is the disposition of the monument fund. Prior to our first meeting the preliminary committee undertook to raise a fund for a handsome monument to the army nurses who had died in the service. Its location was to be in the plot set aside for the Spanish War nurses in the National Cemetery at Arlington, near Washington. Unfortunately, the Secretary of War has never authorized the erection of this monument, and therefore the fund is still untouched and in our treasurer's charge. Shall this sum continue to be held intact, shall it be added to the benefit fund, or shall other disposition be made of it? Fortunately, the monument question does not at all affect the distinguished right of burial with the army and navy in beautiful Arlington, which the Congress of the United States has granted to all 'honorably discharged army nurses.'

"Your president was asked several months ago to appoint delegates to represent us at the International Congress of Nurses. Pursuant, however, to the policy of not assuming any unnecessary authority, she preferred to wait until this meeting and ask the members to themselves nominate and elect their delegates. As the programme of the Congress covers a wide range of topics of vital interest to the profession, our delegates should be nurses of broad views and should also be able to add to the value of the Congress by expressing themselves in the debates which are to be one of its important features.

"The proceedings of our last meeting were, as you remember, written out rather fully by your president and published in *The Trained Nurse* for November last. Might it not be well to make this magazine our organ, in which all official reports and notices of the society, as well as notes of the camps, will appear? This would not preclude duplicate publication elsewhere whenever desirable. It would also seem desirable to issue to each member a pamphlet containing the proceedings of the present meeting, with the constitution and by-laws.

"When this society was originally planned the expectation was that all eligible and acceptable war nurses should become members for life. The large majority of these have joined us, but there still remain a certain number who, generally for some trivial reason, have not yet done so. Each one of you will surely agree in the opinion that every trained nurse of unstained character and honorable war record ought to be one of us, so that our badge shall have a very definite meaning, and its absence, in the case of a nurse who claims war service, perhaps also will have a meaning.

"Cannot each member undertake to aid in assuring that all the

trained nurses who ought to join us shall do so before another meeting?

"This brings up a related matter of vital importance to our organization. We are, from the very character of our foundation, essentially and necessarily a life society. 'Once a member, always a member,' must be our principle. To have hundreds of nurses—even to have a single nurse—wearing our badge and yet not being a member is an anomaly; indeed, we may go further, and say it is an impossibility. The inevitable conclusion from this is that the method of demanding dues *annually* cannot be maintained, for this plan, especially with nurses scattered over the whole world and constantly moving, entails an ever-increasing list of resignations and of members dropped for non-payment of dues, until before long we shall not know what we are or where we stand. The only way to avoid this is to inaugurate the plan of paying a single fee at one time, which shall constitute a life-membership and exempt from all further payments. With proper economy we can meet necessary expenses on the interest from life-fees as small as five dollars a member, and surely every one of you would rather pay that sum down than be bothered with bills for a dollar every year. This will greatly economize the treasurer's work and expenses, while the saving to the members is self-evident.

"The only thing necessary to make this a success is that we shall reach every member and put her name promptly on our list of 'paid up for life.' This means work on the part of the officers you elect for the coming year, and it means the help of every one of you through direct personal and local influence with your friends who have been unable to meet with us and who should be urged to promptness in this payment. Let us settle this once for all, and be done with the money question.

"A word now as to the future of these reunions, which are so delightful and valuable a feature of our society.

"The next meeting will, of course, be held in Washington. Its character will naturally be official, social, and reminiscent, with very little business, and it will inevitably be a gathering of real interest in many ways. If practicable, let the Washington meeting be held in December, when Congress will be in session, all the public buildings open, and the Capitol and its high officials seen at their best.

"In accordance with a promise made at the last meeting, the assurance was received before the change to Buffalo was suggested that if the President were in Washington this September he would be pleased to receive the Spanish-American War Nurses. How little we thought then that his last reception would be over before we met.

"In 1903 we should remember our Western members, and perhaps gather in St. Louis during the great and unique exposition which is to

be held there, and at later dates we should go from Boston to San Francisco, or even to Manila, that all may have a chance to meet and renew old friendships and again to rally under the flag. May each meeting be more successful than the last!

"Before closing these running notes I beg to congratulate you on the distinguished mark of success which during the past year has crowned your army work. The Army-reorganization Bill, which became a law last winter, for the first time in our country's history made women—and those women our own trained nurses—an integral part of the Army of the United States. They now belong to the army as fully as any major-general, and the word 'nurse' has assumed a new meaning as an established military rank.

"This success of your fellows and successors is emphatically *your* work. It was your devotion to your country, your many self-sacrifices, the esteem you won by hard work and true, noble womanhood, that won this national recognition from our rulers.

"Again I congratulate you, and on behalf of American women, I thank you who bravely entered untrodden paths to win for your sex fresh honors!"

Immediately on the close of this address Dr. Hughes moved that the following telegram be sent to both Mrs. McKinley and President Roosevelt, which motion was unanimously carried:

"The Spanish-American War Nurses, in convention assembled at the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, Buffalo, New York, herewith sympathize with you in your and our country's great loss in the death of our beloved President.

"DR. ANITA NEWCOMB MCGEE,

"President, Washington, D. C.;

"DR. LAURA A. C. HUGHES,

"Vice-President, Boston, Mass.;

"MISS LELA WILSON,

"Recording Secretary, Boston, Mass.;

"MRS. HARRIET CAMP LOUNSBERY,

"Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary, Charleston-on-Kanawha, W. Va."

Following this action the corresponding secretary read a brief report of having fulfilled her duties during the year, and, as treasurer, reported a balance in the treasury from dues received amounting to ninety-one dollars and forty-four cents. She also held in bank the monument fund of two hundred and sixty-five dollars and sixty-three cents, and receipts for the benefit fund of one hundred and seventy-one dollars and fifty cents. The surprising feature of this report was the statement that less than one-half of the five hundred members admitted at the last meeting had as yet paid any annual dues. Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury, the

corresponding secretary and treasurer, further reported the case of a former army nurse, who at last reports was known to be very ill of consumption. As this nurse was desirous of securing a government pension, Mrs. Lounsbery thought it possible that a small part of the benefit fund might be of service to her. Authority was therefore given for a disbursement on behalf of this nurse if it should seem desirable after further inquiry. After the Auditing Committee had reported the treasurer's books as correct, both Mrs. Lounsbery's reports were accepted.

When the president called for memorial notices of any of our nurses who had died during the past year, the list was found to include the names of Harriet L. Gaddis, who had since her army service become the wife of Lieutenant Lee, Miss Alice Roberts, Miss Elizabeth McDonnell, and Miss Clara Maass, who had lately died a martyr to science. Miss Maass, who was nursing in the Las Animas yellow-fever hospital at Havana, allowed herself to be bitten by an infected mosquito and died of the fever thus contracted. Report was also made of the death of Miss Dorothy Helen Cochrane at Iloilo, P. I., while in the army service there.

The names of applicants approved by the Committee on Admission were then read by Mrs. Lounsbery, the secretary of that committee. This list included forty-eight active members and one associate member, and a motion was carried that the same procedure regarding admission as was adopted last year should again be followed. In accordance with this, any member having an objection to the admission of an applicant whose name was read should report the same to the corresponding secretary before the session next day. After the proposed by-laws were read for the information of members a recess was taken until the following day.

At the session on Tuesday morning it was announced that no amendments to the constitution had been proposed, and therefore that the by-laws presented by the Executive Committee would be acted on at once. These were taken up, section by section, and after several amendments had been made they were adopted as a whole. In addition to the matters usually contained in by-laws, provision was made for the Executive Committee to "include all officers except those so far from the United States as to render prompt correspondence impracticable," and for standing Committees on Admission, Finance, Auditing, and Publication. The official organ is to be *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*, but all reports, announcements, etc., are to appear simultaneously in *The Trained Nurse*.

The plan of life-fees, presented as an alternative to the existing rules, was rejected, and the usual admission fee and annual dues system was retained, adding, however, an optional life-membership on the payment of twenty-five dollars. Under the head of "badges" provision was

made for the return of the badge of a member resigning or dropped from the society, with the penalty of having her name published as holding illegally the insignia of the war nurses.

The most important article adopted was that providing for the formation of camps "by any five or more members of the society, whether living in one locality, or in one State, or having served at one army hospital, or united for any other reason." The camp officers, to distinguish them from the officers of the general society, are to be designated as captain, lieutenant, and adjutant, the last-named acting as secretary and treasurer. Membership in the camps is limited to the members of the society, but such members may join more than one camp or transfer from one to another at will.

In connection with the paragraph on "discipline," instructions were given the Committee on Admission and the Executive Committee regarding just and thorough investigation of any charges which might be brought against an applicant or a member, and directing that, if practicable, direct evidence be obtained by the camp most likely to be interested.

On motion of Mrs. Lounsbury it was ordered that the constitution and by-laws, with a list of officers and members, should be printed in small pamphlet form and mailed to each member, together with reprints containing an account of the proceedings of the second meeting.

No objection having been made to any of the applicants for membership whose names had been read the previous day, they were all declared to be duly elected members of the society.

The election of officers for the ensuing year being the next business on the programme, nominations were called for, and it was moved by Miss Stack and seconded by practically everyone present, that the present officers be elected to serve for another year, with the addition of two new vice-presidents to fill vacancies. The names of the present officers were read as being placed in nomination for a second term, and to them were added the names of Miss Yssabella Waters and Miss Elizabeth R. Porteous as vice-presidents. By a unanimous vote the secretary was instructed to cast the ballot for the officers nominated, the list being as follows: President, Dr. Anita Newcomb McGee; vice-presidents, Dr. Laura A. C. Hughes, Miss Mary J. McCloud, Miss Isabel Jean Walton, Dr. Isabel Elliot Cowan, Miss Annie A. Robbins, Miss Rose Meiselbach, Miss Mary E. Dreyer, Miss Anna Elizabeth McEvoy, Miss Waters, and Miss Porteous; recording secretary, Miss Lena Wilson; treasurer and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Harriet Camp Lounsbury.

Dr. Hughes, Miss Walton, Miss Porteous, Miss Wilson, and Mrs. Lounsbury, the officers present at the meeting, with the exception of Dr.

McGee, who withdrew her name from nomination, were then elected delegates to the International Congress of Trained Nurses to be held in Buffalo, September 18 to 21.

On motion of Miss Wilson, the election of honorary members was postponed until the next meeting. Those who nominated honorary members at the New York meeting are requested to send to the recording secretary a statement as to qualifications of each candidate for use at the time of election.

The selection of Washington, D. C., as the place for holding the third annual meeting was made unanimously, and the time set was December, 1902, preferably during the second week. It is expected that the Washington meeting will be noteworthy from both official and social points of view, and considerable enthusiasm was expressed regarding the prospect of a large attendance at the time named.

Votes of thanks were extended to Miss Annie Damer for her valuable assistance in securing the Woodbine Hotel as our head-quarters, and also to Dr. Roswell Park for his courtesy in inviting nurses to his operations at the Buffalo General Hospital.

On motion of Dr. Hughes, fifty dollars was voted as an honorarium to the treasurer and corresponding secretary. The monument fund was ordered kept separate, as at present, and placed at interest in a savings-bank. The benefit fund was also ordered placed in a savings-bank. The chair was instructed to appoint a committee of three to inquire into the desirability of incorporation.

There being no further business before the society, the second annual meeting adjourned at one o'clock, September 17.

This close of the formal business, however, by no means closed the interests of the week. On Tuesday evening all the members and a few guests, to the number of seventy-five persons, dined together informally at head-quarters, and a most delightful evening was enjoyed. The sessions of the International Congress, several receptions, and the charm of the Pan-American Exposition all aided in making the days spent at Buffalo ones to be long remembered by those who were so fortunate as to be present.

THE MONROE COUNTY NURSES' ASSOCIATION

THE Monroe County Nurses' Association held its regular quarterly meeting at the Homeopathic Hospital in Rochester on Tuesday, October 1, the president, Miss Palmer, in the chair. Seven new members were admitted, and after the regular routine business had been transacted Miss Allerton, delegate to the Congress at Buffalo, gave an interesting description of the convention, emphasizing one feature, which she said was particularly noticeable and pleasant,—that the

nurses met on sisterly grounds, the question of schools not entering into their relations, the prevailing spirit being one of helpfulness.

Two very interesting talks were given, the first by Miss Julia Bailey, who spoke on "The Value of Microscopy to a Nurse in a Physician's Office," in which she gave an account of her own experience while taking a post-graduate course in New York in bacteriology and microscopy. Miss Mary L. Keith, superintendent of the City Hospital, gave a valuable talk on "Modern Obstetrics," and was introduced by Miss Palmer as the former superintendent of the Lying-in Hospital of Boston, an institution which stands at the head of its kind in this country.

Miss Palmer next presented the subject of hourly nursing for Rochester, and strongly advocated the need for such work there, declaring that there is a demand for services of the trained nurse by many people who cannot afford to hire one regularly and pay her from eighteen to twenty dollars a week, but yet who are able and willing to pay from six dollars to twelve dollars and who are not willing to accept a visiting nurse, whose services are intended for the very poor. Miss J. J. A. Cunningham was asked to speak on the subject, and she gave her experience as one who had tried to introduce the system of hourly nursing in Rochester a number of years ago.

It was in 1895, when she returned from a vacation and was not feeling equal to spending from three to four months with a patient, but she thought she could do some nursing each day. She called on sixty-three physicians, and sixty out of the sixty-three told her to go on with the scheme. She sent out three hundred cards to all the physicians, clergymen, and others interested in philanthropy, and the very first call came to her from one of the physicians who declared she would never have a call. She tried it for three months, at the end of which time she had three nurses assisting her. Then she was obliged to leave town and the work was dropped. Many physicians, however, are now urging the nurses to take up the work, because it fills a need and is of great value to a large class of people.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the association indorse the movement, and a committee was appointed by the chair to represent the association in the movement and see that nurses are supplied for this purpose. Miss Hollister and Miss Sercombe declared themselves as ready to take up the work immediately, and the committee is to furnish additional nurses when they are engaged. It was decided to place the plan upon a working basis as soon as possible.

As a result of this meeting the following circular has been issued:

"The Monroe County Graduate Nurses' Association announces that the Misses Hollister and Sercombe, graduates of the Rochester City Hospital, and Miss Harp, graduate of the Rochester Homœopathic Hospital, will take up visiting nursing. The work consists of baths, massage, alcohol rubs, electricity, obstetrics, minor surgery, and general nursing at the following prices: Seventy-five cents for first hour and fifty cents for each additional hour, obstetrics, minor surgery, and massage extra. In case these nurses are all occupied, a committee, consisting of Miss Langstaff, City Hospital, 'phone 656, chairman, Miss Lowry, Homœopathic Hospital, 'phone 400, and Miss Cone, 43 East Avenue, 'phone 360, will always supply a nurse."

THE Press Committee appointed by the Executive Committee of the International Congress of Nurses will gladly receive any corrections in names and

addresses of delegates to the Congress, or notice of omissions in the "Hand-book" and Congress number of JOURNAL.

The Press Committee is beginning the work of preparing all the Congress material for publication and is desirous of having it free from all errors.

Such items should be addressed to Miss Dock, 265 Henry Street, New York City, chairman Press Committee.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SUPERINTENDENTS OF TRAINING-SCHOOLS FOR NURSES.

MEMBERSHIP QUALIFICATIONS AS DEFINED BY THE REVISED CONSTITUTION
PASSED AT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE ANNUAL CONVENTION, TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 17, AT BUFFALO.

THERE shall be two classes of members,—1, active; 2, honorary.

Active members of the society shall include members of the preliminary organization, all past superintendents who were members while holding that position, all present superintendents of training-schools, hospitals, and nursing bodies, and all assistant superintendents, if qualified as specified in the by-laws and acceptable to the society.

Honorary members shall be those of whom the society wishes to signify its appreciation and hold in grateful remembrance for signal service to the profession or to humanity.

Superintendents of training-schools and hospitals shall be graduates from training-schools connected with general hospitals giving not less than a two-years' course in the wards of the hospital, or whose experience, gained by post-graduate or other additional training-school work, might be considered an equivalent. They must be endorsed by two members of the society.

Assistant superintendents must have the same qualifications and endorsements as superintendents; but in addition must be endorsed by their superintendents.

Superintendents of nursing bodies must have the same qualifications and endorsements as superintendents, but in addition must be in regular standing with their alumnæ societies and endorsed by the presidents of the same.

[The method of application for membership with other details of the constitution and by-laws remain essentially the same as before.]

L. L. DOCK,
Secretary.

GRADUATED NURSES' ASSOCIATION, JAMESTOWN, N. Y.

THIS association was organized in November, 1899, with eight members, the officers elected being Annie Detwiller, president; Mary Hibbard, vice-president, and Augusta Lindblad, secretary and treasurer, and all were reelected at the first annual meeting except Mary Hibbard, Iona Haskin being elected vice-president for this year.

We have taken in three new members and one of the old members withdrew, leaving us now with ten members in good standing.

AUGUSTA LINDBLAD,
Secretary.

THE Nurses' Alumnæ Association of the Cooper Hospital, Camden, N. J., held its regular quarterly meeting October 17.

An amendment to the constitution to the effect that we hold monthly meetings from October until June was laid upon the table.

It was decided to have a course in Parliamentary Law during the coming winter, and we look forward to our meetings being well attended.

Yours sincerely,

IRENE B. MYERS,
Secretary.

IN the spring of the present year ten of the graduates of St. Vincent's Hospital, New York City, met and formed an alumnæ association. The meetings are held at St. Vincent's Hospital the first Friday of the month (except July and August), at three-thirty P.M. The association now numbers thirty-seven.

The following officers were elected to serve for the first year: President, Mrs. Mary Arrison, '95; vice-president, Miss Agnes Hanly, '97; secretary, Miss Caroline V. Marquis, '97; treasurer, Miss Anna Moore, '99.

CAROLINE V. MARQUIS,
Secretary.

MISS T. A. KRITZNER, the delegate to the Nurses' Congress in September for the German Hospital Alumnæ Association, is a graduate of the Class of '93, and has since then been engaged in private work.

The German Hospital Alumnæ Association was organized in February, 1898, with the enrolment of twenty-five members, and incorporated the same year with seventy-five members on the list. The first president was Miss T. A. Kritzner, who was elected for the term of two years, after which she resigned, but was elected the same year as treasurer of the alumnæ.

The object of the association is to create and promote a pleasant fellowship among the graduated nurses, also to further in every way the interests of all.

Ever since organization the meetings have been well attended, showing a great and growing interest in the work of the training-school and hospital.

In connection with the alumnæ is a sick-fund organization founded in the year 1895. The annual dues are six dollars. Meetings are held every month from September to June.

